

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC
COMMENT PERIOD FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WATER QUALITY STUDY**

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Public meetings will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 from 2-4pm and 6-8pm at the Newsome Human Services Building located at 20103 Princeton Road, Sussex, VA 23884. BOTH MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing a study to restore water quality for portions of Assamoosick Swamp, unnamed tributary to Assamoosick Swamp, Seacorrie and unnamed tributary to Seacorrie Swam, Black Swamp, and German Swamp located within Sussex and Southampton counties. This notice also announces the first public meetings and a public comment opportunity.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Overview and summary of the research to date of the water quality impairments of the recreation/swimming use for portions of Assamoosick Swamp and tributaries (mentioned above) which are impaired due to bacterial violations.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of the bacterial contamination for portions of the Assamoosick Swamp and its tributaries. This impairment spans approximately 34 miles. These waterways are impaired for failure to meet the recreational (swimming) designated use due to exceedances of the bacterial water quality standard.

Waterbody	Location	Impaired Length (mi)	Impairment
Assamoosick Swamp	Sussex, Southampton	15.76	Recreational Use (Swimming)
Tributary to Assamoosick Swamp	Southampton	2.06	
Seacorrie Swamp	Sussex	6.91	
Tributary to Seacorrie Swamp	Sussex	1.46	
German Swamp	Sussex	3.65	
Black Swamp	Sussex	3.76	
Total Impaired Length		33.60	

The study reports on the current status of the Assamoosick Swamp and its tributaries via sampling performed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the possible sources of bacterial contamination. The study recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the above impairments. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacteria levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which expires January 4, 2010. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

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